

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**National Black MBA Association Houston Chapter to host 8th Annual Leadership Empowerment Scholarship Fundraiser Banquet featuring keynote by Stedman Graham**

HOUSTON---The Houston chapter of the National Black MBA Association (NMBBAA) will host its eighth annual Leadership Empowerment Scholarship Fundraiser Banquet on Thursday, February 24 at the Power Center in Houston. This year's event begins at 6 p.m. with a silent auction to raise funds in support of educational initiatives for students. This year's theme is "Leadership Empowerment: A Net Worthy Cause." The annual event is part of the Houston chapter's work as a champion of leadership and involvement with the community from which its membership is drawn. It is also a way strengthen the ties among the Association's members, corporate partners and the local community.

Leadership Empowerment awards will be presented to the following individuals who have demonstrated outstanding achievement and service to the community: Marcus Davis (Entrepreneurship), Ada Edwards (Government), Deloyd Parker and the Shape Community Center (Community), Tophas Anderson III (Science/Health) and Anastasia Lindo (Education). The Houston Chapter will also present its 'Corporate Partner of the Year' award.

The Houston Chapter has provided scholarships to more than 200 deserving undergraduate and graduate students totaling nearly \$500,000 in awards. "We are taking to heart the organization's mission of creating intellectual and economic wealth in the community," said Paul Charles, Houston Chapter President.

Stedman Graham, New York Times bestselling author, educator and businessman, will deliver a special keynote address at this year's event on the topic of leadership development and key steps to achieving personal and professional success.

His message is based on his bestselling books entitled, *You Can Make It Happen: A Nine-Step Plan for Success and Build Your Own Life Brand! A Powerful Strategy to Maximize Your Potential and Enhance Your Value for Ultimate Achievement*. Graham and his Chicago-based marketing and management firm, S. Graham & Associates, have partnered with the NMBBAA this year to help raise awareness for grassroots community and business leadership initiatives in support of the local chapters.

Tickets for the Leadership Empowerment Scholarship Fundraiser are \$40 per person or \$500 for a reserved table for 10 people. Tickets may be purchased via PayPal online at [www.houstonblackmba.org](http://www.houstonblackmba.org). For more information please call (713) 866-6573 or visit online.

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The Houston Chapter of the National Black MBA Association was formed in 1983. The organization has empowered African Americans who aspire to pursue both undergraduate and graduate degrees in the field of business. The Chapter is also committed to providing a venue to educate and inspire our young people through Leaders of Tomorrow, a high school mentoring program comprised of 50-60 local high school students and mentors who focus on student empowerment and enrichment.

**Media interviews will be held from 4:30-5:30pm in The Power Center's VIP room. To RSVP call (281)773-1672 or email [Michelle@VMSCcommunications.net](mailto:Michelle@VMSCcommunications.net).**

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